a • (interjection); (particle placed after something for emphasis)

akesi • reptile, amphibian

ala • not, no, nothing; (number) zero

alasa • hunt, forage, seek, attempt; (preverb) try to

ale • all, every, everything; (number) 100

anpa • downward, below; bottom, underside

ante • different, other; alter, change

anu • (particle between options, X or Y)

awen • endure, protect; stay, wait; continue; (preverb) continue to

e • (particle before direct object)

en • (particle between multiple subjects)

esun • trade, transaction; market, shop

ijo • thing, object, being, phenomenon

ike • bad, negative

ilo • tool, machine, device

insa • center, inside, between, middle

jaki • disgusting, sickly, toxic, unclean

jan • human being, person, somebody

jelo • yellow, yellowish

jo • have, carry, contain, hold, own

kala • fish, marine animal, water creature

kalama • sound; to produce sound

kama • arriving, coming, future; (preverb) become, manage to, succeed in

kasi • plant, vegetation; herb, leaf

ken • can, may, ability; possibility, maybe; (preverb) to be able to

kepeken • (preposition) using, by means of

kili • fruit, vegetable

kin • (particle) too, also, as well, additionally

kiwen • hard object, eg. metal, rock, stone

ko • semi-solid, eg. dough, paste, powder

kon • air, breath; essence, spirit

kule • color; sensory aspect eg. taste, texture; category, genre

kulupu • community, group, society, team

kute • ear; hear, listen, obey

la • (particle marking previous statement as context to following statement)

lape • sleep, rest, break from activity

laso • blue, green

lawa • head, mind; control, guide, lead; leader; rule, law

leko • square, cube, block

len • cloth, fabric; privacy; secret, hidden

lete • cold, cool; freeze, chill; uncooked, raw

li • (particle before indicative verb/ statement)

lili • little, small; young

linja • long flexible thing eg. line, rope, hair

lipu • book, document, paper, website

loje • red, reddish

lon • present, real, true, existing; (preposition) located at, in, during

luka • hand, arm; interact, touch; (number) 5

lukin • look, examine, read, watch; eye

lupa • door, hole, orifice, window

ma • earth, land; world, country, territory

mama • parent, creator, caretaker, ancestor

mani • money, currency; item of value

meli • woman, female, wife; feminine

mi • (first-person pronoun) I, me, we, us

mije • man, male, husband; masculine

moku • food; eat, drink, consume

moli • dead, dying; kill, murder

monsi • back, rear, behind

monsuta • fear; monster, danger, scary thing

mu • (animal noise, onomatopoeia)

mun • moon, star, night sky object

musi • art, game, entertainment; silly, fun, amusing

mute • many, much, very; quantity; (number) 20

n • (thinking, pondering, hmmming)

namako • embellishment, spice, extra

nanpa • number; -th (ordinal particle)

nasa • unusual, strange, silly

nasin • way, path, road; method, tradition

nena • thing that sticks out/up eg. bump, button, hill, nose

ni • this, that, these, those

nimi • name, word

noka • foot, leg

o • (particle, vocative or imperative); (number); should

olin • love, respect, show affection to

ona • (third-person pronoun) he, she, it, they

open • begin, start, open, turn on; beginning

pakala • break, damage, harm; mistake

pali • work on, build, make, create; activity

palisa • long hard thing eg. branch, rod, stick

pan • bread, corn, grain, oat, rice, wheat

pana • give, send, emit, put, release

pi • (particle which regroups following words into single modifier for previous word)

pilin • heart; feeling, emotion, opinion

pimeja • black, dark, dark color

pini • complete, end, finish; conclusion

pipi • bug, insect, spider

poka • hip, side; nearby, beside, close to

poki • container, eg. bag, bowl, cup, drawer

pona • good, useful, positive

sama • same, similar, alike; sibling, peer

seli • warm, hot; fire, heat; cook

selo • outer layer, bark, skin; boundary

seme • what? which? who?

sewi • above; high, elevated; divine, sacred

sijelo • body, torso; physical form, shape

sike • round, ball, circle; cycle, year

sin • new, fresh, again; repeat

sina • (second-person pronoun) you, y'all

sinpin • face, foremost, front; vertical surface

sitelen • image, symbol, writing, drawing

sona • knowledge; know; (preverb) know how to

soweli • animal, beast, land mammal

suli • big, large; important; size

suno • sun, light source; light, glow, shine

supa • horizontal surface, table, furniture

suwi • sweet, cute, adorable

tan • (preposition) by, from, because of

taso • only, (particle) but, however

tawa • motion, eg. walking, travel; (preposition) going to, toward, for, to

telo • water, liquid

tenpo • time, duration, event, moment

toki • communicate, say, speak, talk; story; language

tomo • indoor space, building, house, room

tonsi • transgender, non-binary, gender non-conforming

tu • (number) 2; separate, divide, split

unpa • sex, sex organ; to have sex with

uta • mouth, lips, jaw; bite, kiss, taste

utala • battle, fight; challenge, competition

walo • white, whitish, pale

wan • (number) 1; combine; united

waso • bird, flying creature

wawa • strong, energetic, powerful, amazing

weka • absent, away; distant; remove

wile • want, desire, wish, require; (preverb) want to

this mini reference zine was compiled using the following resources:

lipu Linku, the community dictionary (https://linku.la)

lipamanka's semantic spaces dictionary (https://lipamanka.gay/essays/dictionary)

sitelen seli kiwen font by jan Lepeka (https://www.kreativekorp.com/software/fonts/sitelenselikiwen)

for all things toki pona, check out the community website at tokipona.net!

huge thanks to ijo Wen for all their help, and to ale sa, soweli kipisi pu, and ilo Tani for proofreading!

compilation and illustration by musi Olije

editing and print layout by ijo Wen

CC0 musi Olije + ijo Wen 2026

lipu lili pi toki pona

a pocket-size toki pona dictionary